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**DECISION**



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

**FILE:** B-218339.2

**DATE:** March 21, 1986

**MATTER OF:** Introl Corp.

**DIGEST:**

In the absence of any evidence to support a claim for the costs of bid and proposal preparation and filing and pursuing the protest, the General Accounting Office agrees that the agency's offer of settlement is reasonable with the exception that the claimant is also entitled to be reimbursed for automobile mileage and the time expended to submit its offer.

Introl Corp. requests that the General Accounting Office determine the amount it is entitled to recover from the Department of the Navy for its cost of filing and pursuing its prior protest and its bid and proposal preparation costs.

In our decision, Introl Corp., B-218339, July 9, 1985, 85-2 CPD ¶ 35, we sustained the firm's protest against the Navy's award of a contract for a high frequency converter generator under request for quotations (RFQ) No. N00123-85-Q-7005. We also determined in that decision that the firm was entitled to its costs of preparing its quotation and costs of filing and pursuing the protest. Introl has filed its request that we determine the amount of entitlement pursuant to our Bid Protest Regulations, 4 C.F.R. § 21.6(f) (1985), because it was unable to reach any agreement with the Navy about the amount of its claim.

Introl initially requested reimbursement for 29 hours of work at a rate of \$45 per hour. The agency has disputed this amount of time as excessive. The agency states that the RFQ required offerors to complete a form by filling in such information as the firm's name and address, the item's price, weight, delivery terms, place of manufacture and delivery terms. Introl's quotation also included a photo-copied page listing all of Introl's generator sets, with an

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arrow indicating the applicable model number and two pages with specifications that had been modified to fit the quotation. In addition to the time spent preparing the quotation, Introl has claimed reimbursement for time spent on the telephone and traveling to the contracting facility to submit its quotation and for the time spent supporting its claim after our decision was issued.

In response to a written request that it provide documentation to support the time it claims it expended, Introl advised this Office that its managerial personnel do not "punch time cards." We assume from the response that in fact Introl has no specific records of the time spent to support its claim.

The agency has nonetheless offered to settle the claim in the following amounts:

Quotation preparation	- 5 hrs. at \$45/hr.	\$225.00
Protest costs	- 2 hrs. at \$45/hr.	90.00
Responding to agency report	- 6 hrs. at \$45/hr.	270.00
Miscellaneous expenses (postage, telephone calls)		<u>25.00</u>
Total		\$610.00

In the absence of any further evidence to the contrary, we are of the opinion that the amount of time claimed is excessive. We also find the agency's offer to be reasonable, given the effort involved, with the following exception. It is not disputed that the quotation was hand-delivered to the agency. Accordingly, we allow the additional two hours driving and submission time claimed plus automobile mileage at .205 per mile for a total additional amount of \$95.13.<sup>1/</sup>

We therefore determine that the amount due for the costs of filing and pursuing the protest and for bid and

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<sup>1/</sup> Two hours at \$45.00/hr. plus 25 miles at .205/mile (the current government mileage rate).

proposal preparation to be \$705.13. The time expended in pursuit of this claim is not a reimbursable expense.

*for* *Shilton J. Fowler*  
Comptroller General  
of the United States